

What is claimed is:

1 1. A program information distributing method comprising:
2 receiving digital broadcast information for a broadcast program,
3 comprising Electronic Program Guide (EPG) information and program contents
4 information from a broadcast station of a plurality of broadcast stations;
5 extracting from said digital broadcast information, EPG information; and
6 converting said EPG information to a mark-up language format.

1 2. The program information distributing method of claim 1 further
2 comprising:
3 transmitting said EPG information in said mark-up language format to a
4 remote handheld user device.

1 3. The program information distributing method of claim 2 wherein
2 said remote handheld user device is selected from a group consisting of a mobile
3 telephone or a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).

1 4. The program information distributing method of claim 1 wherein
2 said EPG information comprises, common EPG information and detailed EPG
3 information, said common EPG information comprising guide information for channels
4 of said plurality of broadcast stations, and said detailed EPG information comprising
5 program information specific to said broadcast program.

1 5. The program information distributing method of claim 4 wherein
2 said guide information comprises a channel, a program title, a program start time, and a
3 program duration time.

1 6. The program information distributing method of claim 4 wherein
2 said detailed EPG information comprises a program synopsis.

1 7. A method for remotely controlling a video recorder using a remote
2 handheld device, said video recorder for recording a broadcast program, said method
3 comprising:
4 said remote handheld device receiving program information on said
5 broadcast program from a program information source;

6 selecting said broadcast program for recording from said program
7 information displayed by said handheld remote device; and
8 said remote handheld device transmitting recording information to said
9 video recorder via a communications network, said recording information for recording of
10 said broadcast program by said video recorder.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said communications network
2 comprises an internet.

1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein said communications network
2 comprises a public telephone network.

1 10. The method of claim 7 wherein said remote handheld device is
2 used out of a line of sight of said video recorder.

1 11. The method of claim 7 wherein said remote handheld device is a
2 cellular phone.

1 12. The method of claim 7 wherein said remote handheld device is a
2 Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).

1 13. The method of claim 7 wherein said program information source is
2 a program information distributing device.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said broadcast program and said
2 program information are sent from a broadcaster to said program information distributing
3 device on one channel.

1 15. The method of claim 7 wherein said video recorder is a VCR.

1 16. The method of claim 7 wherein said video recorder is a DVD
2 recorder.

1 17. The method of claim 7 wherein said video recorder is a Hard Disk
2 Drive (HDD).

1 18. The method of claim 7 wherein said program information is
2 conditionally displayed by said handheld remote device depending on a current time and
3 time information associated with said broadcast program.

1 19. A program information distributing device for receiving program
2 information from a broadcaster of a plurality of broadcasters and for distributing said
3 program information to a plurality of mobile devices, said program information
4 distributing device comprising:
5 a broadcast information receiving unit for receiving broadcast information,
6 comprising program information, from a broadcaster of said plurality of broadcasters;
7 a program extracting unit for extracting said program information from
8 said broadcast information;
9 a data format converting unit for converting said program information to
10 mark-up language information; and
11 a data information transmitting unit for sending said mark-up language
12 information to a mobile device of said plurality of mobile devices.

1 20. The program information distributing device of claim 19 wherein
2 said mobile device includes a browser program to display said mark-up language
3 information to a mobile device user.

1 21. The program information distributing device of claim 19 wherein
2 said mobile device includes a cell phone.

1 22. The program information distributing device of claim 19 wherein
2 said mobile device includes a PDA.

1 23. The program information distributing device of claim 19 wherein
2 said mark-up language information, comprises HTML information.

1 24. The program information distributing device of claim 19 wherein
2 said mark-up language information, comprises XML information.

1 25. A handheld device for controlling recording of a selected broadcast
2 program of a plurality of broadcast programs by a video recording device via a
3 communications network, said handheld device comprising:
4 a receiving unit for receiving program guide information on said plurality
5 of broadcast programs;
6 a display for displaying to a user said program guide information;
7 an input device for receiving a user selection of said selected broadcast
8 program of said plurality of broadcast programs for recording; and
9 an output device coupled with said communications network for sending to
10 said video recording device control information to record said selected broadcast
11 program.

1 26. The handheld device of claim 25 wherein said program guide
2 information comprises common Electronic Programming Guide (EPG) information, said
3 common EPG information sent by all broadcasters of said plurality of broadcast
4 programs.

1 27. The handheld device of claim 26 wherein said common EPG
2 information comprises a channel, a program title, a program start time, and a program
3 duration time for each broadcast program of said plurality of broadcast programs.

1 28. The handheld device of claim 25 wherein said program guide
2 information further comprises detailed EPG information, said detailed EPG information
3 sent by a broadcaster of a broadcast program of said plurality of broadcast programs, and
4 said detailed EPG information comprising a title, story synopsis, and type for said
5 broadcast program.

1 29. A handheld device for controlling recording of a digital broadcast
2 program by a video recording device via a communications network, said handheld
3 device comprising:
4 a processor coupled to a memory for executing a browser program stored
5 in said memory;
6 a receiving unit for receiving program information on said digital
7 broadcast program;

8 a display for displaying to a user said program information using said
9 browser program;
10 an input device for receiving a user selection of a selected digital broadcast
11 program for recording; and
12 when said user selection, comprises said program information,
13 commanding said video recording device to record said digital broadcast program.

1 30. The handheld device of claim 29 wherein said program
2 information, comprises common EPG information and detailed EPG information, for said
3 digital broadcast program.

1 31. The handheld device of claim 30 wherein said common EPG
2 information is displayed on said display, and responsive to a user input for more program
3 information on said digital broadcast program, said detailed EPG information is
4 displayed.

1 32. The handheld device of claim 30 wherein said detailed EPG
2 information for said digital broadcast program comprises a title, story synopsis, and type.

1 33. The handheld device of claim 29 wherein said program
2 information, comprises common EPG information.

1 34. The handheld device of claim 33 wherein said common EPG
2 information comprises a title and a time.

1 35. The handheld device of claim 29 wherein said browser program is
2 HTML or XML enabled.

1 36. The handheld device of claim 29 wherein said displaying to a user
2 said program information, comprising a start time, is performed only if said start time is
3 on or after said current time.

1 37. The handheld device of claim 29 further comprising a time
2 information comparing module for comparing said program information, comprising a
3 start time, with a current time and wherein said program information is displayed on said
4 display only if said digital broadcast program can be recorded.

1 38. The handheld device of claim 29 wherein said receiving unit
2 further receives confirmation information from said video recording device on said
3 commanding.

1 39. A recording device for recording a digital broadcast program from
2 a broadcaster comprising:

3 a receiving unit for receiving digital broadcast information, including
4 program information and said broadcast program, from said broadcaster;

5 a network interface unit for receiving recording instructions to record said
6 broadcast program from a cell phone or a PDA, said cell phone or said PDA coupled to
7 said network interface via a communications network; and

8 a video recording unit responsive to said recording instructions for
9 recording said broadcast program.

1 40. The recording device of claim 39 wherein said network interface
2 unit has a continuous Internet connection to said communications network.

1 41. The recording device of claim 39 wherein said communications
2 network, comprises a public telephone system.

1 42. The recording device of claim 39 wherein said cell phone or PDA
2 initiates said recording instructions by calling said network interface unit.